



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, representing nearly 600 Local Churches across Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts is clear in our collective commitment to affordable housing, including enacting equity in where zoning laws apply and how they are utilized.

The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ thus encourages the Fair Share Planning and Zoning Legislation in moving forward.

When we look at scripture, we know that Jesus himself was homeless (Matthew 8:20), rejected by his own people when he "pitched his tent among us" (John 1: 11,14), and in providing for the homeless we are giving him a home (Matthew 25:40), John 14:23); and we are commanded by faith and scripture to provide dwelling places for the homeless, the sojourner, and those unable to afford adequate housing (Deuteronomy 15:7- 8, Nehemiah 5).

Since 1984, we have proclaimed a commitment to equitable and fair housing for all people, including support for housing for low-to-moderate income people and development of more housing based on the need. The Southern New England Conference has committed to eradicating racism both within and beyond the walls of the church. Connecticut's current system of zoning has caused a high rate of segregation and concentration of poverty in Black and Brown communities. We have hope that the Fair Share Planning and Zoning Legislation will create systemic racial equity in Connecticut!

Given our theological commitments and our history of support for affordable housing in the entities which have formed the Southern New England Conference, we affirm our support for the Fair Share Legislation. We uplift the work of our partners in the Growing Together Connecticut coalition, including Center for Leadership & Justice and the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, in which many of our constituent congregations are also members. Together, we can foster Connecticut communities with more racial and economic equity.

Faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Chris Davies

Executive Minister for Programs and Initiatives

Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly

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